Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world and is typically caused by external environmental factors such as over exposure to UV rays, and is largely preventable; and,

Whereas, Skin cancer incidence is on the rise, affecting more than 1 million persons annually in the United States; and,

Whereas, Most skin cancers are curable - 59,580 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma this year, the most serious form of skin cancer; and,

Whereas, Melanoma is primarily a disease of Caucasians with an incident rate 10 times higher than in non-Caucasians; and,

Whereas, An estimated 10,590 Americans will die of skin cancer this year - 7,770 from melanoma and 2,820 from other non-epithelial skin cancers; and,

Whereas, 80 percent of lifetime exposure to damaging UV rays occur before the age of 18; and,

Whereas, Prevention and early detection is the best way to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality; and,

Whereas, Each year, approximately 200 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed and 25 persons will die from melanoma in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Skin cancer month will heighten awareness by the general public of the need to reduce exposure to the sun and to reduce use of tanning booths; and,

Whereas, Skin cancer month will serve to heighten awareness of the signs and symptoms of skin cancer among the general public:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 9 through 12, 2005, as

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State